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FCC Mail Room

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April 25, 2014

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

My name is Mark Hart and I'm writing to you from the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. I taught Computer Science here for seven years before I took a CTO position in the private sector. Though, I still enjoy coming back to the campus when I want to get out of the office, clear my head and focus on something important to me.

I've always felt there is an energy that you can feel at educational institutes. The spark between students and teachers, the excitement of research, the exchange of information and communication and the openness of shared ideas. There is a magic here that I find very compelling.

I've been asked many times what I think the most important aspect of the Internet is? I know many of my colleagues might cite economic, technological or informational milestones. While all valid, I've always tried to find the humanity in the technology we use. To me, the Internet gives every person a voice of equal weight. No other medium affords such broad equality.

You see, I can tell you exactly how the Internet works. How these digital bits -the lifeblood of the Internet- travel around the world. They are not just sterile pulses of light flickering through fiber optic cables. They are the representation of the humanity that put them in motion. They are pieces of emails, art, photos, movies, music, business and education...they are our voices.

With Net Neutrality, these bits travel through our country unmolested and unsegregated. Race, religion, gender, and economic status do not affect how they are processed. Hardworking family farms, students, small businesses, garage startups and millions more have the same access as large corporations.

Chairman Wheeler, the mission statement of the FCC begins, "To be an agent of positive change". Sir, be that agent of positive change. You are speaking to the future as well as the present when you act upon Net Neutrality. History is replete with turning points that start with a single moment. This is your moment. Please, do not implement a digital version of Plessy v. Ferguson.

I implore you to listen to the millions of people in this country who want ISPs classified as Title II Common Carriers. Segregating access is fraught with consequences and can only lead to restricted freedom controlled by a small few. You have the power to do what is right.

Sincerely,

